

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 6

1430 Hours October 13, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

WEATHER

Forecast: *Mostly cloudy, high temperatures low 70's, N-NW winds 7-13 mph, 10% chance of precipitation.*

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with additional staffing.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage.

The Governor directed limited activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) to coordinate the provision of assistance to the impacted localities.

Local Situation: Local EOC Activations: None

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

Evacuations: None

Schools Closed: None

STATE AGENCIES

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

At the request of the locality, VDEM Public Affairs Office completed an information flier to be posted in local business establishments.

A VDEM Reservist will arrive at the Wise County Command Center located at the local health department the morning of Friday, October 14, 2005 to assist with logistics and finance.

The VDEM Hazardous Materials Officer and VDEM Local Support Services Division Director are coordinating with Wise County, the Town of Big Stone Gap, and state/local agencies to identify needed resources and continue logistical support.

The VDEM Legislative Liaison is providing information to local General Assembly members representing the locality and Congressman Boucher's office.

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies and compiling a list of available resources. The VEOC is polling communities throughout Southwest Virginia to anticipate long-term drought conditions. The VEOC is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies and will serve as the receiving agent for actual and anticipated state agency expenses.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

The local Health Department completed the assessment of special needs population in the area.

The VDH inspected approximately 30 permitted food establishments in Big Stone Gap to review operations during water shortage and to plan for water outage. The VDH will develop guidance for food establishment operators on procurement, storage of water to protect public health and communicate that with food establishments. ***Food Service Establishments will provide written plans to VDH for continued operation without water.*** The VDH anticipates placing 2 Environmental Health Specialist in the Big Stone Gap area during water outage to monitor food establishment compliance. This effort must be coordinated with the Department of Agriculture, which oversees other food vendors.

The VDH is preparing kits for personal care workers/Home Health and home delivered meals that contain water suitable for disabled populations, baby wipes and sanitizer.

The Virginia Department of Health Roanoke Regional Public Information Officer is on scene to coordinate public information dissemination.

The Office of Drinking Water Programs is working with local and state officials to identify and utilize alternate water supply sources. The VDH is evaluating alternative sources of non-potable water for sanitary purposes, so that potable water can be reserved for consumption.

The VDH is collecting daily samples from the blivets for bacteriological testing.

Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (VDMHMRAS)

The Local Community Service Boards feel they can maintain clients within their own network or neighboring Community Service Boards. Group Home operators have been contacted and advised to begin considering relocation alternatives.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

The VNG delivered and set up 6 blivets (20,000 gallon bladders) at 6 locations determined by the Town of Big Stone Gap. Two additional blivets are projected to be placed within the next 24 hours, for a total of 8 blivets.

Today the Virginia National Guard will pick up 36 pallets of one-gallon jugs of drinking water from Abingdon and deliver to the Big Stone Gap Armory.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

Handling delivery of 40,000 gallons potable water for bladders located at nursing home and hospital.

The VDOC has personnel and equipment on stand-by to assist with water distribution and other commodities, if necessary.

State Fire Marshal's Office

The SFMO is advising local authorities on jurisdictional concerns and technical alternatives. ***The SFMO developed a guidance policy for the local fire marshal to distribute to facilities regarding deficient water supply for fire sprinkler systems.***

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The DEQ issued temporary permit for water withdrawal out of Powell River not to exceed 1 Million gallons per day on Friday, October 7, 2005.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT deployed a tractor to pull stainless steel tankers, which is now on-sight at East Stone Gap Residency Shop.

The VDOT deployed 2 portable message boards on Friday evening, October 7 to support the on-going public information effort.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The Town of Big Stone Gap implemented mandatory water conservation measures on September 27. These conservation measures require businesses to reduce water consumption by 50% and residences by 25%. Businesses were also required to

submit a water conservation plan of action to town officials. The Town of Big Stone Gap is monitoring and spot-checking water meters to ensure compliancy with conservation measures. The Town of Big Stone Gap is not expecting to lose the water supply from the reservoir until Monday, October 17, due to conservation measures taken by the public. ***A boil water advisory notice was issued to customers in the Powell Valley area being served by the new Norton/Big Stone Gap interconnect until test results are complete.***

Big Stone Gap continues to purchase water from Duffield (Scott County) and Pennington Gap (Lee County). Wise County and Big Stone Gap are seeking alternative water sources.

The Town of Big Stone Gap leased a portable water processing plant to produce potable water from the Powell River. ***Filters for packaged water treatment plant are being installed today.*** A second plant is on order with delivery expected on October 21, 2005.

The Town of Big Stone Gap has identified a cave, located approximately 2,000 feet below the water treatment plant as a possible source of untreated water.

Obtained water samples from Bullet Mine. Initial testing is inconclusive. More samples will be drawn today and further testing completed. Reverse osmosis may help clean water.

County GIS is supplying maps as requested.

Daily meetings are being conducted at Wise County Command Center located at the local Health Department with local/state agencies.

The Department of Social Services will set up a special needs shelter at the East Stone Gap Baptist Church. The shelter will open when the need arises.

At Mountain Empire Community College anecdotal information suggests that student attendance has dropped noticeably. MECC has committed some administrative support to the Wise County Command Center.

Mountain Empire Older Citizens agency began distributing water in conjunction with the delivery of Meals on Wheels today.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VVOAD)

Camp Virginia Jaycees, in Bedford, is available as a shelter for the relocation of group homes.

The VAVOAD is working with the faith-based community and civic organizations to identify available resources and collection points within the faith-based community.

The VAVOAD will send list of available resources and coordinate with the VEOC for distribution of available commodities.

Prepared by: Judy Cooling
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Al Pace, Deputy Operations Director